

House Concurrent Resolution No. 102

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CUPPS.

5521H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, vultures perform a vital role in preserving the state's ecosystem by
2 scavenging for and eating carrion; and

3

4 **WHEREAS**, one variety of vulture, the black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), is a migratory
5 bird commonly observed in all regions of this state; and

6

7 **WHEREAS**, the black vulture employs more aggressive feeding behaviors than other
8 vultures, preying on livestock in addition to scavenging carcasses; and

9

10 **WHEREAS**, farmers in this state and others have suffered losses of livestock from black
11 vulture attacks; and

12

13 **WHEREAS**, the black vulture's predatory behavior extends to small native wildlife and
14 pets; and

15

16 **WHEREAS**, vultures tear at soft materials used for construction purposes such as rubber
17 liners and seals, caulking, and shingles, and vultures can destroy pools, vehicles, and other
18 outdoor equipment by pecking and scratching at paint, roofs, seats, and covers; and

19

20 **WHEREAS**, roosting flocks of vultures foul buildings and other structures with their
21 highly acidic and corrosive vomit, urine, and feces, creating considerable replacement costs for
22 residents and businesses of this state; and

23

24 **WHEREAS**, the growing population of black vultures in this state has increased the
25 likelihood of contact and conflict with Missourians; and

26

27 **WHEREAS**, black vultures are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act
28 (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), as amended; and

29

30 **WHEREAS**, the federal protection of black vultures prevents farmers from defending
31 their livestock against a black vulture onslaught without a federal depredation permit issued by
32 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and

33

34 **WHEREAS**, the necessary USFWS permit to capture or kill black vultures requires a
35 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services recommendation that a permit be
36 issued; and

37

38 **WHEREAS**, neither the USDA Wildlife Services recommendation nor the USFWS
39 permit will be issued without the farmer submitting information to both federal agencies showing
40 the damages already inflicted on the farmer's livestock by black vultures; and

41

42 **WHEREAS**, methods of resolving black vulture damage often favor dispersing vultures
43 from the farmer's property rather than permanently removing the threat; and

44

45 **WHEREAS**, farmers need at least one approved method of immediately addressing black
46 vulture assaults against their livestock without first enduring property destruction and loss:

47

48 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
49 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
50 concurring therein, hereby create the Black Vulture Depredation Task Force; and

51

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall consist of the following
53 members:

54

55 (1) One member of the majority party of the Senate and one member of the minority
56 party of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

57

58 (2) One member of the majority party of the House of Representatives and one member
59 of the minority party of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
60 Representatives;

61

62 (3) One representative from the Missouri Department of Agriculture;

63

64 (4) One representative from the Missouri Department of Conservation;

65

66 (5) Two members from agricultural commodity groups in the state, one appointed by the
67 Speaker of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
68 Senate; and

69

70 (6) One representative from the USFWS; and

71

72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the mission of the task force shall be, accounting
73 for the black vulture's role in the state's ecosystem, to fully consider and study the damage that
74 black vultures effect on livestock, the costs incurred on Missouri's farmers by black vultures, and
75 all options for preventing such damages and mitigating such costs; and

76

77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the task force shall elect a chair
78 and a vice chair from the members who are members of the General Assembly; and

79

80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the chair or vice chair of the task force shall call
81 a meeting within fifteen days of the adoption of this resolution; and

82

83 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the staff of Senate Research and House Research
84 shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the task force
85 may require in the performance of its duties; and

86

87 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force, its members, and any staff assigned
88 to the committee shall be reimbursed for travel and other expenses actually and necessarily
89 included in the performance of their duties; and

90

91 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall report its findings and
92 recommendations to the General Assembly before January 1, 2021; and

93

94 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall terminate upon submission of
95 the report to the General Assembly; and

96

97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
98 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
99 Director of the Department of Agriculture, the Director of the Department of Conservation, and
100 the Director of the USFWS.

✓